



IDAHO DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Coeur d'Alene Field Office

Cecil D. Andrus, Governor Richard P. Donovan, Director

November 3, 1992

William H. Freutel, Jr.
EPA Region X
422 W. Washington St.
Boise, ID 83702

Subject: Oil Pollution Act funding for petroleum cleanup Avery Landing site.

Dear Bill:

At our recent October 22, 1992 meeting, you requested that I provide you with information on the Avery Landing leaking petroleum site. It is my understanding that you are requesting this information in order to consider this site for action under authorities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Funding for the Avery site will be considered in addition to the Preston, Burley, and Sandpoint sites, discussed previously. Following is a brief history and summary of site conditions at the Avery Landing site.

In 1988, petroleum was noted to be seeping from the banks of the St. Joe River at a location within the Avery, Idaho town limits. The seep is emanating from an old railroad switching and maintenance yard, currently referred to as the Avery Landing. During the site's use as a railroad yard, large amounts of diesel fuel were stored in a 500,000 aboveground storage tank. Also, large amounts of heavy oils were handled at the site because the site was a locomotive cleaning and maintenance facility.

From the early 1900s to 1980, the owner of the property was the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Corporation, often referred to as the "Milwaukee Road". In 1980, Potlatch Corporation acquired the property. Potlatch Corporation has never stored any petroleum on the site and has used the land primarily for timber storage and transport. Milwaukee Road has gone through a bankruptcy reorganization and is currently owned by CMC Heartland Partnerships. The storage tanks were dismantled prior to 1985.

In 1989, it was determined that up to three feet of free product was floating on the ground water beneath this property. It is assumed that all losses of petroleum occurred during the property's use as a railroad maintenance yard. The seeping petroleum has resulted in a thick "tar like" coating of rocks for several hundreds of feet downriver of the site. There are indications that the seepage has been occurring since the 1950s.

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IDEQ does not presently have any funding to initiate cleanup at this site. As a result, petroleum continues to flow into the St. Joe River. The St. Joe River has been designated by the state of Idaho as a special resource water. IDEQ has made attempts over the last three years to compel both Potlatch and CMC Heartland to assess the property and initiate cleanup, but both have refused to take full action.

Recommended actions at this site are:

- 1) Develop and implement a remedial action plan that is designed to prevent petroleum from entering the river.
- 2) Develop and implement a feasibility study for the cleanup of all petroleum contaminated ground water beneath the site.
- 3) Implement the cleanup plan developed in #2 above if identified PRP(s) does not respond to federal and state corrective action orders.

If the above information is incomplete with respect to the requirements of the Oil Pollution Act, please let me know. We have considerable information on this site and should be able to supply you with additional information, as necessary.

Sincerely,



Tim Mosko
Program Manager
Community Programs

TLM/ra

c: Walt Poole
Lance Nielsen
Doug Conde
Gwen Burr - NIRO


Ellen Van Duzee - EPA Region X